



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Shigenobu SATO et al.

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Appln. No : 10/642,756

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : August 19, 2003

For : INTERVERTEBRAL SPACER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2002-095685, published on April 2, 2002, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document is discussed on page 1 of the specification of the instant application.

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 9-503416, published on April 8, 1997, together with English language patent family member U.S. Patent No. 5,397,364 to KOZAK et al., issued on March 14, 1995.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and cite the patent documents. A copy of the above-noted documents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with

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the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent application:

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/642,684 to NAKAHARA et al., entitled "Intervertebral Cage", filed on August 19, 2003.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the above-mentioned application is attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of this U.S. patent application at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Shigeenobu SATO et al.

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November 12, 2003
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